Camera Equipment Recommendations

The ideal way to log seabird, whale, turtle, and other marine wildlife sightings, as well as debris and marine pollution, is with geo-tagged documentary photographs.

Ideally, your camera setup should include:
- zoom capability
- vibration reduction
- automatic geotagged location data

Below are some options to camera-outfit for your voyage:

1) Point-and-Shoot Super Zoom Cameras
These cameras are small all-in-one units priced from US$300-$500. To reduce cost, another option is to purchase a comparable earlier model (listed in parentheses).

Nikon CoolPix P600: 60x optical zoom (24mm-1440mm equivalent) with optical stabilizing. (Nikon P520 has less zoom (42x) but includes in-camera GPS.)

Sony Cyber-Shot HX400: 50x optical zoom (24mm-1200 mm) with optical stabilizing and in-camera GPS. (Sony HX300)

Canon PowerShot SX50 HS: 50x optical zoom (24mm-1200 mm) with optical stabilizing.

2) Adapt a DSLR Camera with a Long Lens
If you already own a digital single-lens-reflex camera body, you can add a zoom lens with vibration reduction and a hot-shoe geotagger. (Be sure to work with a camera shop to insure compatibility with your camera model.)

Sample Zoom Lenses with Vibration Reduction:
Canon 70-300mm EF (Retail Price US$1,400)
Nikon 70-300mm VR (Retail Price US$600)
Tamron 18-270mm PZD (Retail Price $450)

Geotaggers:
Canon GP-E2 GPS (US$390)
Nikon GP-1 GPS (US$300)
Phottix Geo One GPS (US$160)

Polarizing Filter
Add a polarizing filter to your DSLR lens to protect your lens from salt and improve images taken in the glare of sun and water. (US$100-$200)

Birding Aboard
Focus Your Binoculars and Camera on Seabirds

Prepared for the SeaBC Sea Bird Count (www.birdingaboard.org)
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